

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for initiating internet telephone service from a web page containing a telephone number,  
5 comprising:
  - accessing said web page using a browser;
  - downloading a web page document associated with said web page;
  - 10 parsing said web page document for detecting a character string representing a telephone number;
  - modifying said character string in said web page document into a link to said internet telephone service;
  - 15 providing said web page document including said modified character string to said browser; and
  - displaying said web page on said browser including said modified character string.
- 20 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - selecting said modified character string indicative of said telephone number;
  - activating said link to said internet telephone service;
  - 25 passing said telephone number to said internet telephone service;
  - initiating a telephone call to said telephone number; and
  - establishing two-way communications between a caller selecting said character string and a

destination audio device designated by said telephone number.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said initiating a telephone call to said telephone number 5 comprises:

launching a server side script at said internet telephone service for initiating said telephone call.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said act of launching a server side script at said internet telephone service comprises:

determining if said caller has logged into said telephone service;

if said caller has not logged in, requesting said caller to log into said telephone service; 15 and

placing a telephone call to said telephone number through said internet telephone service.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said browser 20 is Microsoft Internet Explorer and said method further comprises:

providing a Browser Helper Object including instructions for parsing said web page and modifying said character string indicative of said 25 telephone number; and

installing said Browser Helper Object, thereby activating said Browser Helper Object whenever said browser is activated.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said act of parsing said web page for detecting a character string indicative of a telephone number comprises:

5 determining if said character string includes alphanumeric characters matching one or more predetermined telephone number formats; and  
if said character string matches a first one of said predetermined telephone number format,  
designating said character string as a telephone  
10 number.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said one or more predetermined telephone number formats include at least one of the following: (###)###-###, (###) ###-###, ###.###.###, ###/###/###, ###/###-###, ###-###-###, ###-###-###, +# (###) ###-###, +# (###)###-###, +# ### ### ###, +#-### ### ###, +#-### ###-###, +#-###-###-###, ### ### ###, ### ###.###, and ### ###-###, where # represents a digit between 0 and 9 or a character between A and Z.

20 8. The method of claim 7, wherein said one or more predetermined telephone number formats further include ########, where the first three characters are numeric digit between 0 and 9.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein said act of  
25 parsing said web page further comprises:

determining if said character string is a  
hypertext link; and  
if said character string is a hypertext link,  
refraining from designating said character string  
30 as a telephone number even if said character

string matches a first one of said predetermined telephone number format.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said web page document is written in hypertext markup language (HTML) 5 and said determining if said character string is a hypertext link comprises:

determining if said character string is preceded by the character A or a.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein said act of 10 modifying said character string in said web page into a link to said internet telephone service comprises:

providing a first string including link information to said internet telephone service;

15 appending to said first string a first parameter containing said telephone number;

appending to said first parameter a second parameter containing said telephone number;

20 concatenating said first string, said first parameter and said second parameter to form said modified character string; and

providing said modified character string to said browser for display.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said 25 appending to said first string a first parameter containing said telephone number comprises:

appending an international dialing access code to the beginning of said telephone number for forming said first parameter; and

30 appending said first parameter to said first string.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein said act of modifying said character string in said web page into a link to said internet telephone service comprises:

5                 providing a first string including link information to said internet telephone service;

                appending to said first string a first parameter containing said telephone number;

                providing a second string including window properties information for displaying a window of

10                said internet service provider;

                appending to said second string a second parameter containing said telephone number;

                providing a third string including character formatting information; and

15                concatenating said first string, said second string and said third string to form said modified character string; and

                providing said modified character string to said browser for display.

20                14. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

               providing a caller-selectable interface for selectively enabling or disabling said acts of parsing said web page document and modifying said character string in said web page document.

25                15. A method for initiating internet telephone service from a web page containing a telephone number, comprising:

               accessing said web page using a browser;

               downloading a web page document associated

30                with said web page;

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        parsing said web page document for detecting  
        a character string representing a telephone  
        number;

5                  modifying said character string in said web  
        page document into a link to said internet  
        telephone service;

                providing said web page document including  
        said modified character string to said browser;

10                 displaying said web page on said browser  
        including said modified character string;

                selecting said modified character string  
        indicative of said telephone number;

                activating said link to said internet  
        telephone service;

15                 passing said telephone number to said  
        internet telephone service;

                initiating a telephone call to said telephone  
        number; and

20                 establishing two-way communications between a  
        caller selecting said character string and a  
        destination audio device designated by said  
        telephone number.